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CANUCK BOOST
CANADIAN HELPS BLUE JAYS WIN IN BOSTON {page 17}

ONE MORE TIME?
BRITNEY'S BEAU BROWSING FOR DIAMONDS {page 13}

LONDON metro®
Thursday, September 15, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

City may have extra cash

- Projected surplus mostly comes from new revenue created by revamped Ontario Works funding model: Treasurer
- Started in April, this model shifts more administration costs away from cities and onto the provincial government

Budget projections released yesterday show the city could see a surplus this year.

The city had $3.8 million more than expected at the end of June, treasurer and chief financial officer Martin Hayward said.

But, he warned, the picture could be very different by the time books are closed Dec. 31.

"It's not over until it's over," Hayward said, noting many things could eat away at the projection, including "negative situations with capital projects."

"There's always things that can ... reduce that estimate or increase that estimate."

Hayward shared the good news in a report to city council's finance and administration committee. He urged committee members to stash the money — which won't actually materialize until the end of the year — in a capital facilities reserve fund, thereby setting it aside for upcoming projects. Instead, the committee recommended the money be placed in a reserve fund for operations. ANGELA MULLINS

Fair. Ladies

▶ Jessica Frohlich, left, and Ursula Toaze sample some cotton candy at the Western Fair yesterday afternoon. The University of Guelph students were in town for the Colbie Caillat concert last night. Cotton candy is just one of the many sweet treats available at the Western Fair. Reporter Mike Arsenault also sampled some fare yesterday. Story, page 4.

MIKE ARSENAULT/FOR METRO

Western Fair offers candy-coated, deep-fried thrills

Election

Horwath pays visit to area

- Talks jobs during campaign stop on Ford plant's final production day {page 3}

Runway roundup

Best of New York Fashion Week {page 14}

Day #1 winner: Ashley Vilon
Day #2 winner: April Paquette
Day #3 winner: Joris Wood
Day #4 winner: Ashley Smith
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New post would help stop 'bleeding of jobs': Horwath

Provincial NDP leader says jobs protection commissioner would bring all stakeholders together ◆ Promises party plan will 'put people back to work'

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, centre, speaks with voters yesterday during a London campaign stop at Tim Horton's at 1384 Wellington Rd. S.

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Andrea Horwath doesn't know if an all-hands-in approach would have kept Ford's St. Thomas assembly plant open.

But, the NDP leader said, it certainly couldn't have hurt.

"We can't just throw up our hands and say there's nothing we can do about it."

That sentiment sums up the driving force behind the NDP's plan for cutting unemployment and appointing a provincial jobs protection commissioner. The commissioner would work at arm's length from government and would be called on when massive layoffs are announced.

Horwath announced plans for the new post yesterday during a campaign stop that included London and St. Thomas. The stop — part of the NDP's bid to win the Oct. 6 election — coincided with the final day of production at the Ford assembly plant, which employed about 1,100 workers.

The jobs commissioner could help struggling companies work through problems such as accessing capital and could tap into the government for help in some situations. A similar post in British Columbia has saved thousands of jobs since the 1990s, Horwath said.

The NDP also is promising tax credits for companies that hire new workers and those that invest in equipment and training.

"The blank-cheque way of doing things hasn't worked," Horwath said.

NDP proposal

NDP proposed tax credits for companies:

- **20% –** Up to $5,000 for new hires.
- **10% –** For investments in machinery and equipment.
- **20% –** Up to $3,500 for providing training to workers.

Producers pin hopes on screening

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

A group of London film producers are hoping tonight's premiere of The Darkness will net big rewards.

The four men behind Matchbox Pictures — and a big team of local volunteers — shot the film in August 2010 using a group of Toronto actors. With the movie ready for an invitation-only screening, the producers and writers are hoping important eyes will take notice of what they've created on a $500,000 budget.

"We have 10 potential investors coming (tonight)," Dwight Coughlan said. "We're hoping this will elevate us to the next level."

The Darkness, which Matchbox has been marketing to distributors, follows a college student trying to prevent a dark entity from taking over her body and killing others.

That next level is finding people willing to cough up a combined $1 million for Matchbox to start filming its next venture, Kingdom Come.

Movie trailer

- Check out a clip from The Darkness at matchboxpictures.ca.

Lab reports positive West Nile test

The Middlesex-London Health Unit has received a preliminary report of its first human West Nile virus infection in two years.

A lab in Toronto reported a positive test for the infection in an elderly London resident who has died. The results of further tests are pending before it can be confirmed.

"The level of West Nile virus activity this summer is higher than we've seen in recent years," said Dr. Bryna Warshawsky, associate medical officer of health "The risk of West Nile virus will remain until our first hard frost."

There have been 14 probable and confirmed human cases of the virus in Ontario this summer.

METRO

Knights release Guimond

The London Knights released overaged defenceman Sacha Guimond. After clearing OHL waivers, Guimond was sent to the Baie Comeau Drakkars of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Tickets are still available for the Knights' home opener on Sept. 23 versus the Saginaw Spirit.

METRO

Two face theft charges

Two London men face theft charges after merchandise was stolen from a downtown business.

The men were arrested Tuesday morning after items were taken from a shop in the 200 block of Dundas Street. Along with theft, John Larocque, 30, and Robert Wilkinson, 28, are charged with possession of stolen property. Larocque also is charged with assault.

METRO

1 news

Robust public transit is one of the keys to integrating immigrants in Canada, a new paper argues. Scan code for story.

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3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to **m.metronews.ca**

On the web at metronews.ca

Olivia Chow tears up as she thanks members of the NDP caucus for their support after Jack Layton's death. Video at metronews.ca

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Western Fair food festive fun for all

- Taking your taste buds for a ride can be just as fun as the midway
- But fairgoers will need to leave their healthy eating habits at home

MIKE ARSENAULT/FOR METRO

▶ Children ride the carousel at the Western Fair. If the rides aren't your cup of tea, you can always take your taste buds for a spin, with a number of treats available to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Yesterday afternoon, I was sent to sample the food options at the Western Fair. I was looking forward to tasting the gastronomical treats in all their sugary, deep-fried glory.

My first stop was Little Apple Annie's to get the scoop on the most popular foods available to the public.

"It's got to be the popcorn, and the cotton candy, and the French fries," said Bob Smith, who was manning the counter.

When I mentioned that I was typically a healthy eater, Smith told me that I had come to the right place.

"That's why (people) come to the fair," he said. "To try stuff they don't normally cook at home."

Smith had me at popcorn, so I bought a box and figured that I might as well add a candy apple to my order to get my daily serving of fruit.

Looking for something a little heavier, I came across a slice of deep-fried heaven: elephant ears. These pastries covered with a veritable rainbow of toppings were popular across all demographics.

Jack Hardy, 18 months, really enjoyed his elephant ear as his mom, Michelle, pushed him around in his stroller. Tylar Pennell, a leading seaman with the Canadian Navy, was on his second ear before I purchased mine.

"Other than feeling a little guilty — it tastes good," Pennell said, laughing when I asked about his choice.

I received a great tip from Maggie Walker, 15, when we were discussing our mutual love of pizza. How long should one wait after eating before tackling the rides?

"Probably wait 20 minutes, so you don't feel nauseous," the veteran of 13 Western Fairs said. "One of my friends has vomited every year he has come."

I decided to skip the midway. I wobbled toward the exit — my stomach threatening to burst — when a cold chill ran down my spine.

Metro is going to reimburse me for this, right?

MIKE ARSENAULT

Fair information

▶ The Western Fair runs until Sunday. Gates open at 3 p.m. from Monday to Thursday and 11:00 a.m. from Friday to Sunday. For more information, visit westernfairdistrict.com

Board promotes student pledge to fight bullying

A new program initiated by the Thames Valley District School Board and CTV News London is hoping to rid the Forest City community of bullies and bullying behaviour.

It's called The Pledge.

"It's a commitment that people will make to not bully and to stop bullying when they see it," said Julie Maltby, public affairs officer for the Thames Valley District School Board.

The phrase to be included in the pledge is as follows: "I believe that everybody has the right to live in a community where they feel safe, included, valued and accepted regardless of differences."

Both students and members of the community can visit the website and click to take The Pledge, and also to learn more about how to stop bullying, share their stories, and to seek help for victims of bullying.

"There are a lot of people who might not recognize bullying behaviour when they see it," Maltby said. "The (program) is going to provide an education piece. It's going to provide resources for people who think they are being bullied and don't know what to do about it."

The program website launched Monday and can be found at ctvnewslondon.ca/thepledge.

MIKE ARSENAULT

CONTRIBUTED

"We want people to become upstanders (not bystanders). It's a word that's been coined to indicate those people who will stand up against bullying."
JULIE MALTBY
THAMES VALLEY D.S.B.

CHARITY

United Way seeking even more donations

The United Way of London and Middlesex has set the bar even higher.

At the annual 3M Harvest lunch at the John Labatt Centre, yesterday, officials announced the campaign goal this year is $8.5 million.

Last year, the United Way raised $8.1 million. But organizers admit various economic challenges could have an impact on donations.

Statistics Canada's unemployment numbers for August had London at 8.9 per cent. That's down from July's 9.1, but still the second highest of all major Canadian cities.

And today 1,100 Ford St. Thomas employees will officially be out of a job, in addition to hundreds of spin-off jobs lost in the region.

Local United Way CEO Andrew Lockie said unemployment could have a big impact on the campaign.

"It's not good news," he said. "We don't like the idea of higher unemployment, and it can certainly have an effect on our ability to fundraise, but it also highlights the importance of the programs that United Way funds."

AM980/AM980.CA

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KEY ENGINEER

Hafle the name to blame?

In the report's 57 findings about the disaster, only one person — BP engineer Mark Hafle — is mentioned by name.

It says Hafle's failure to investigate or resolve anomalies detected during a critical test possibly contributed to the crew's failure to detect the initial influx of gas and oil.

Hafle also chose not to run a cement log, a test that evaluates the quality of the cement job, in violation of BP procedures, the report finds.

Hafle refused to testify before the federal panel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BP takes it on the chin

No-holds-barred U.S. federal report castigates oil giant for spill catastrophe in the Gulf

A landmark U.S. federal report has lambasted oil giant British Petroleum for the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

It puts ultimate responsibility on BP for the deaths of 11 oil-rig workers.

And it says in the days leading up to the April 20, 2010, disaster, BP made decisions that complicated cementing operations, added risk and may have contributed to the failure of the cement job.

The report, released yesterday, says BP — and in some cases its contractors — violated seven federal regulations.

They included the failure to take necessary precautions to keep the well under control at all times, to perform a cement job that kept the oil and gas down hole, and to maintain the blowout preventer — which is supposed to lock in place to prevent a spill in case of an explosion — in accordance with industry-accepted practice.

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A year after the giant oil spill, a Louisiana official digs up oiled soil in a coastal marsh. BP claims most of the oil that coated beaches and marshes has been removed. But Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries says the cleaning has been superficial and the oil has killed marshes and damaged the ecosystem.

While the report recognizes other companies had roles in the disaster, the panel says BP was the final decision maker.

"BP, as the designated operator … was ultimately responsible for conducting operations … in a way that ensured the safety and protection of personnel, equipment, natural resources and the environment," the panel says.

The report will be used to shape reforms to offshore drilling safety.

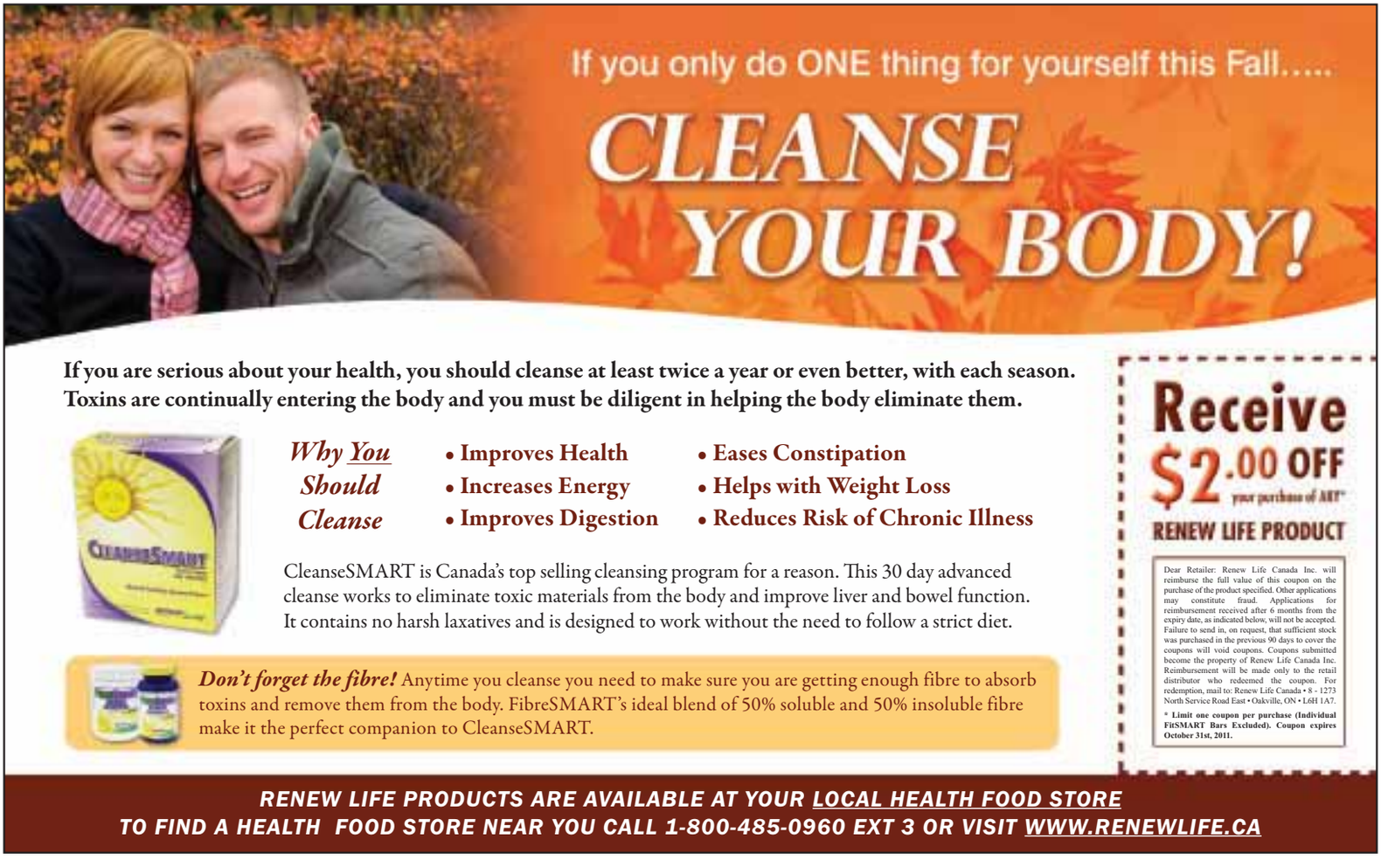
It also will be used by lawyers for victims involved in the multibillion-dollar court battle over the spill.

Government agencies will also use it as they consider launching some civil and criminal charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Historic disaster

- The oil spill off Louisiana spewed 757 million litres of crude from an undersea well owned by BP.
- The disaster caused billions of dollars in damage to hundreds of kilometres of coastline and wreaked havoc on the Gulf economy.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Feathers to sustain Layton's legacy

Interim leader given two feathers that late leader Jack Layton used to guide his decision-making

New Democrats are invoking the spirit of Jack Layton as they prepare for the new parliamentary session without their late leader.

Layton's widow, Olivia Chow, opened a caucus retreat yesterday with an emotional plea to her fellow MPs to work hard and stay united as they pick up the torch from their fallen leader.

Choking back tears, she thanked her colleagues for all their love and support during Layton's final battle with cancer last month.

"Of course, you know it means the world to Jack," she said. "Jack considered all of you his friends, it's like a second family. And we have a lot of work to do to carry on his torch."

Chow presented interim Leader Nycole Turmel with two eagle feathers that she said were "very sacred" to Layton. "May Jack's spirit guide us, now and in the future."

Turmel also urged the caucus to stick together and work hard as a team.

"A team we have here that is united, a team that knows what it believes, a team with the experience and the commitment Canada needs right now ... a team that can't wait to get back to Parliament and take on Stephen Harper."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Way of future

- Jack Layton kept the two eagle feathers on his desk.
- One feather fell from an eagle that circled Layton and his wife Olivia Chow while they kayaked in the Queen Charlotte Islands shortly after the 2006 election, according to an aide.
- The other feather was blessed by Haida Gwaii elders who told him it was a "feather of leadership."
- A permanent NDP leader is to be chosen in March.
- The caucus retreat is grappling with how to remain undivided.

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ MP Olivia Chow, left, hands a pair of eagle feathers to NDP interim Leader Nycole Turmel yesterday at a pre-session caucus in Quebec City.

Alleged child abductor must see psychiatrist

Accused child abductor Randall Hopley is "sad and sorry" and was possibly under a suicide watch a day after his dramatic takedown and arrest, his lawyer says.

Hopley, 46, made his first court appearance yesterday in Cranbrook, B.C., 70 kilometres southwest of the town of Sparwood, which was gripped with fear after Kienan Hebert, 3, was taken from his home.

In an unprecedented turn of events, Hebert was returned home on the weekend and Hopley was hunted down Monday by a police dog.

"Mr. Hopley is very sad and sorry for being in the situation that he's in," said Hopley's lawyer, William Thorne. "He's also glad to see that the young boy got returned home safely."

Hopley was named by police as a suspect in an Amber Alert that was issued throughout B.C. and eventually into Alberta, meaning his name and face were plastered everywhere.

At court, Hopley was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation and return to court Nov. 9. Thorne said it will be up to doctors to determine if he has mental-health problems.

Hopley is charged with kidnapping, abduction of a child under 14, and break-and-enter. He's also been charged with two counts of breach of probation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Accused child abductor Randall Hopley is led out of the Cranbrook, B.C., courthouse yesterday. Hopley was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Hopley's history

- Hopley was to have been in court on Sept. 19 for a preliminary hearing on 12 unrelated charges dating back to 2010.
- In 2008, he pleaded guilty to break and enter and was sentenced to 18 months in jail.
- In the 1980s, he was convicted of sexual assault and sentenced to two years in federal prison.

Afghan war memorial up for debate

The Royal Canadian Legion says it will have to debate whether it supports adding Afghanistan to the National War Memorial.

Spokesman Bob Butt says it is a matter for the various Legion commands to decide and must be discussed among the organization's 340,000 active members.

A proposal circulated around National Defence last year called for the word Afghanistan and the dates 2001-2011 to be added to the memorial that sits at Parliament Hill. The $2.1-million plan included the addition of an eternal flame and a national commemoration ceremony.

But a spokesman for Defence Minister Peter MacKay says it would be inappropriate to commemorate Afghanistan now when soldiers are still there on a training mission.

A concern of the Legion revolves around recognizing Afghanistan, while excluding those who died during the Cold War and on other missions since the Korean War. THE CANADIAN PRESS

X-ray finds diamond

Spanish authorities say a $16,500 US diamond was found in a man's stomach after an X-ray was taken.

A British tourist reported a purse with the diamond in it stolen by two men who entered a restaurant in Marbella. Police said they stopped a car with four men with criminal records, and found the purse. An officer saw one of the men put his hand to his mouth. He was taken to a medical centre. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rallies slated for West Bank

Palestinian activists announced yesterday that they are planning two major demonstrations next week in connection with the UN bid: The first will be on Wednesday, and the second will come two days later on Sept. 23, when Abbas is scheduled to address the General Assembly.

The Palestinians say they are determined to keep the rallies peaceful.

"We want to tell world leaders that the Palestinian people seek freedom and independence and need your support."
AMIN MAQBOUL, ABBAS' FATAH PARTY SENIOR OFFICIAL

Amin Maqboul, a senior official with Abbas' Fatah Party, said the rallies will take place inside West Bank towns and cities, and avoid Israeli military checkpoints and any other flashpoints like entrances to Israeli settlements. Police will ring the demonstrations to prevent any clashes with the Israelis, Maqboul said.

Israeli security officials are concerned that isolated incidents could touch off more widespread unrest. Soldiers and police have been training for months in preparation for possible violence.

Israeli leaders have also hinted of retaliation, including financial sanctions or the possible annexation of parts or all of the West Bank.

While Israel has tried to play down the significance of the vote, a setback in the UN will add to a growing sense of isolation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don't do it, U.S. says

Palestinians hope UN bid will boost statehood drive

YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A four-storey-high Palestinian flag flies in front of the European Council building in Brussels on Monday.

A high-level U.S. team kicked off a new round of shuttle diplomacy yesterday in a last-ditch effort to contain the diplomatic fallout from the Palestinian statehood push, but the odds of a breakthrough appeared slim as the Palestinians pledged to go ahead with mass rallies to draw world attention to their bid.

U.S. diplomats Dennis Ross and David Hale arrived late yesterday for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders. They were to travel to the West Bank today to talk with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Washington is trying to persuade the Palestinians to drop their plan to ask the United Nations to recognize an independent Palestinian state, but so far without success.

The Palestinians are turning to the UN after peace talks with Israel broke down, hoping a UN bid would boost their statehood drive. Both Israel and the U.S. oppose the campaign, saying there is no substitute for negotiations.

An Israeli official said there was "a very intensive effort" under way in hopes of finding a formula that would allow negotiations to resume. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Independence

- With the odds of a breakthrough appearing slim, the Palestinians plan to submit a resolution to the United Nations during the annual General Assembly, which begins in New York on Tuesday.
- Although the vote would not change the situation on the ground, the Palestinians believe UN recognition of a state along the 1967 lines would give them leverage in future negotiations.
- Netanyahu wants to keep parts of the West Bank under any final peace deal and says that Israel will never relinquish control of east Jerusalem, home to sensitive Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy sites.
- Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

Ottawa wants changes to Buy American bill

Want jobs bill to include exemptions to protectionist measures Canadian companies losing opportunities

Ottawa is vowing to fight the latest attempt in the United States to place a Buy American restriction on a new multibillion-dollar government job creation package.

Trade Minister Ed Fast issued a statement yesterday complaining about the new U.S. measures, which would discriminate against Canadian suppliers bidding on public construction projects in the United States.

"Our government is committed to delivering free trade leadership and Canadians can count on our government to defend free and open trade on the world stage," Fast said in the release.

"I have instructed Canadian officials to initiate the consultation process that was established as part of the 2010 Canada-U.S. Agreement on Government Procurement."

The U.S. Congress passed an earlier stimulus bill in 2009. which also sought to direct work to American companies at the expense of foreign suppliers, but Ottawa eventually obtained a Canadian exemption.

Tuesday's unveiling of the latest $447-billion US jobs bill by President Barack Obama appears to have a disregarded the compromise reached by the two governments last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

App. Controversy

▶ The iPhone app A Jew or Not a Jew is displayed yesterday in Paris.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple gets bad rap over app

A French anti-racism organization has threatened to sue Apple France over an iPhone application that identifies public figures who are Jewish. The app violates France's strict rules against listing personal details such as religious affiliation, race or sexuality.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	Gold contracts
+ 87.9 (12,293.38)	- 0.55¢ (100.93¢ US)	- $1.30 ($88.91 US)	$4.039 (+ 5.9 ¢)	$1,826.50 (- $3.60)

Canadians OK with personal debt: Survey

Canadians are confident that they have a good handle on their personal debt and believe they're in better financial shape than most, a new survey suggested yesterday.

The poll, conducted by Ipsos Reid and released by the Royal Bank of Canada, suggested nearly 70 per cent of Canadians have achieved non-mortgage debt levels that they are comfortable managing.

More than a fifth of survey respondents, or 22 per cent, reported being entirely clear of non-mortgage debt, while a further 45 per cent were not concerned about their current debt levels, the poll said.

Three-quarters of those surveyed said they believed they were in better financial shape than their friends and neighbours.

The survey suggested indebtedness weighs heavily on the national conscience. The poll found 93 per cent of respondents believed paying down debt was just as important or more critical than saving money for the future.

The survey also highlighted regional differences in Canadians' approach to debt repayment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ON TODAY!
WESTERN FAIR
SEPT 9 - 18
Tickets still available!
DOWN WITH WEBSTER
7:30 PM
ROGERS
LAST DAY FOR 2-FOR-1 RIDES!
SHOWBOT
Daily, throughout grounds
Free With Admission!
MOLSON MUSIC GARDEN
Crystal Kage 7 - 11 PM
DOWN ON THE FARM
Daily, Canada Building
New!
MORE Free Attractions.
GREAT REPTILES OF THE WORLD — PAST & PRESENT
SHELDON CASAVANT COMEDY MAGIC SHOW
WEST COAST LUMBER JACK SHOW • SENIORS GOT TALENT
EVERYTHING FITZ • YOUTH TALENT • EXTREME CANINES
RACING PIGS & DUCKS • VINE 2 VINE: THE LIVING VINES
MORE Animals.
Free With Admission!
TEACUP PIGS • ALPACA • LLAMA • FANCY FOWL • WALLABY
MINIATURE DONKEY • RABBITS • BARNYARD MATERNITY WARD
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One lucky Sky Rider a day will win $1,000
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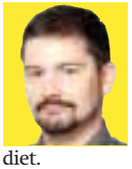
Details at realseriousfun.ca
Fair Opens: Mon - Thur @ 3 PM | Fri - Sun @ 11 AM
WESTERN FAIR district
be entertained

BACHELORHOOD, WITH CHERRY JUICE ON TOP

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO



I'm relinquishing my bachelorhood status — time to hand in my Green (Mould) Card and move on to the next stage of life, whatever that is. Struggling artiste, perhaps. Or political ideologue.

Don't get me wrong. I like the bachelor life — the hours are good and the benefits (e.g., reading entire Calvin and Hobbes collections on the toilet) help offset the crushing loneliness. The problem is that I don't know how much longer I can deal with the diet.

Since my divorce, the food I've consumed in my apartment (daily takeout not included) has consisted of the following: Pre-sliced bread, pre-made meat pies, instant oatmeal, pre-made waffles, beans, cereal, tuna, sardines, and one failed attempt at mac and cheese, which was more like elbow macaroni in orange water.

"If I enter, the bacteria procreating on the dirty dishes all stop multiplying for a moment and look up to size up the stranger. When they determine that I am male with a takeout danish in my hand, they rate the hot-water-and-soap threat as 'low' and go back to munching down on my beans from June 6."

I fall into ruts often. I'll decide that one food is going down pretty well — why mess with what's working? — and suddenly it's Tuna Can Tuesday, or Mini-Wheats Wednesday. And don't even get me started on what I've been drinking. (Bachelorhood tip: A glass of maraschino cherry juice is a refreshing nightcap.)

Why don't I just cook something? It's a valid question, and I have a valid answer: I can't. I step into the kitchen so rarely that I consider it uncharted territory. If I enter, the bacteria procreating on the dirty dishes all stop multiplying for a moment and look up to size up the stranger. When they determine that I am male with a takeout danish in my hand, they rate the hot-water-and-soap threat as "low" and go back to munching down on my beans from June 6.

And people ask me how I keep thin. I might have starved to death years ago if I hadn't learned the important method of dropping in on friends at about 5:30 p.m. "Hi guys! I was just in the neighbourhood and — hey, something smells good. You know, I haven't had a good home-cooked meal since, well, since the last time I was here. What? Me? Eat here? Tonight? Oh, I couldn't possibly. But I will. Look: I brought my own plate!"

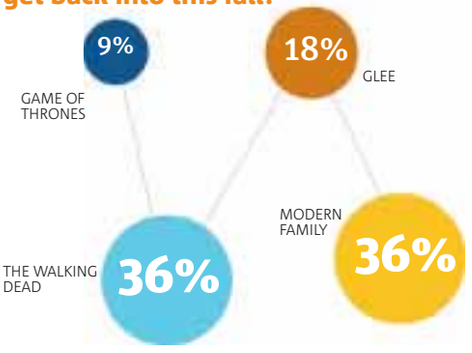
Unfortunately, this is only a stopgap solution, and my friends don't seem to be home at 5:30 anymore. I need a long-term fix, which is why I'm prepared to move beyond bachelorhood and into the next stage of life, where there's warm food and clean cutlery and, sometimes, I think, napkins.

To celebrate, I'd ask you all to raise a glass with me. Maraschino cherries are in the baking aisle.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Panel
Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What TV series are you most excited to get back into this fall?



Local tweets

- **@DianaCharabin:** Looking for a freelance videographer in #ldnont - anyone know somebody? Please RT
- **@sarahsimpkin:** Two weeks in the new apartment and I've memorized my postal code. This is a new personal record. #ldnont
- **@linesbylyons:** Srsly ppl,I know it's annoying and inconvenient but if u think the #Fanshawe strikers are cheering and happy to be doing so, you're wrong.
- **@Jimmy_Yan:** Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry is developing a school of #publichealth for 2013! Sweet. #goodnewseveryone #uwo
- **@NikkehSass:** Just came back from the United Way #harvestlunch at the JLC! What a great event! :D #ldnont
- **@linzsage:** #rantwarning Am sick to death of some #ldnont city councillors trying their best to keep us from being a world class destination....
- **@meganvandee:** Apparently I am influential about #ldnont, beer, angry birds, camping and reddit according to @Klout. Damn skippy.

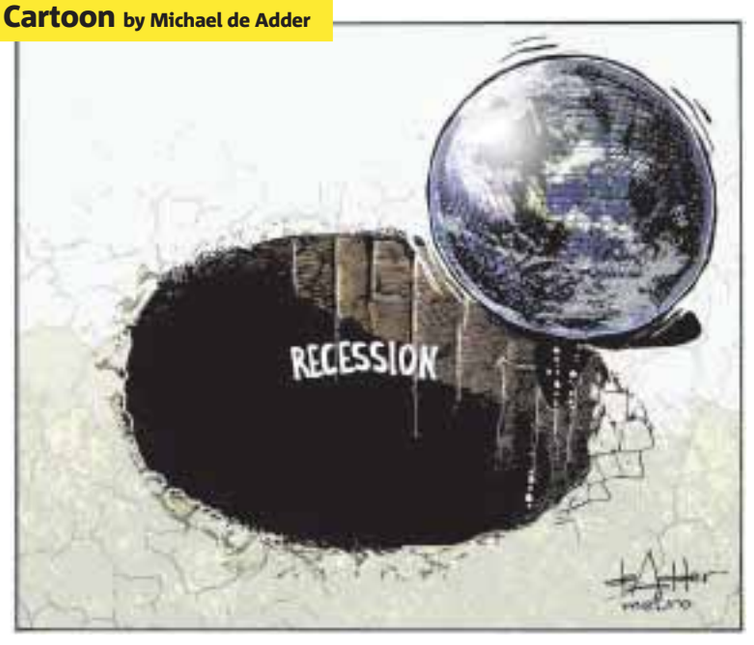
Letters

The most recent "Win a Wife" contest on a Canadian radio station should sound alarms. Volga Girl, the mail-order site sponsoring the contest, describes itself as "providing a wide range of services to those men who are interested in finding a compatible Russian wife."

Unfortunately, many vulnerable women from developing countries make themselves available as Internet brides because of poverty and dire economic circumstances. In reality, many don't have a choice and may end up trafficked into a world of sexual exploitation, or married to men who abuse them. Sadly, it is one of many radio contests that are a societal barometer on the commodification of women and girls. "The Breast Christmas Ever" offered women a chance at free breast augmentations. Another station had plans for a "thinnest body" contest. Can we believe these promotions help women and girls nurture their self-esteem? What kind of message does this send to young girls?

ELIZABETH LUCAS
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, PHILADELPHIA

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Gumby turns himself in

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Gumby tells a store clerk he is being robbed.

San Diego police say the man accused of trying to rob a convenience store last week dressed as a famous claymation character turned himself in Tuesday, with an alleged accomplice.

Det. Gary Hassen tells the San Diego Union-Tribune that Jacob Kiss and Jason Giramma voluntarily went to police headquarters. He says Kiss brought the Gumby suit and turned it in as well.

Police say a man dressed in a Gumby costume and an accomplice went into a 7-Eleven in Rancho Penasquitos on Labour Day and told the clerk it was a robbery.

The clerk thought it was a prank and dismissed him. Both then left the store.

Surveillance video shows the clumsy would-be robber struggling to keep the green suit on as he walked out the door. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Danks ready to go live

P.E.I. band set to perform during Car Free Festival, which continues with final instalment

BACKSTAGE PASS

AMANDA GRANT
METRO LONDON

Brohan Moore, frontman of P.E.I. band The Danks, splits his time between writing assignments and writing a record.

When Moore moved to London in May to study journalism at the University of Western Ontario, he left an unfinished album and the band behind.

But that didn't stop the 26 year old. He spent the summer writing songs with bandmate Alec O'Hanley using Skype and email. The two brainstormed virtually, taking the creative process online with Moore recording demos in London and O'Hanley arranging in Charlottetown.

"When classes ended I headed back home and we recorded the second half of the record," Moore says. "We did a lot of writing out in the country where there are no distractions. It was just swimming and music for a couple of weeks."

HANDOUT

▶ The Danks

Now back in London, Moore is preparing to take the album live, performing for free on Saturday as part of the fourth and final instalment of the Car Free Festival this year.

The festival will shut down Dundas Street once more, urging the community to get outside, go downtown and play in the street. But unlike past events, this time around Car Free partnered with Oh! Fest and Doors Open London to showcase the history and talent the city has to offer.

On Saturday and Sunday three stages will host more than 25 bands and musicians from across North America, nearly half from Southwestern Ontario, each bringing a unique sound and character to the festival.

The Danks are one of three P.E.I.-based bands performing this weekend, playing the main stage on Saturday at 6 p.m.

"We're really looking forward to it," Moore says. "Seeing old friends and reminiscing about how beautiful our little island is."

Fellow islanders Paper Lions and Boxer the Horse will also play on Saturday. Paper Lions on the Jones Soda stage at 5:30 p.m. and Boxer the Horse in an evening show at Call the Office at 11 p.m.

Put a record on

Local CHRW DJ Justin Chasty hosts a celebration of all things vinyl at Nite Owl at 353 Talbot St. tonight.

People are encouraged to bring their favourite record, sign-up and share music with friends, old and new, at the bi-weekly event.

Walk-in movie

Cult classic The Princess Bride is screening Saturday night, outside in the parking lot at 380 Richmond St. The screening is another perk of the Car Free Festival and will feature a sneak peak at this year's Short Film Showcase and a Greg Curnoe documentary shot this summer in London.

Scene in brief

Charlie Sheen recently told NBC's Matt Lauer that he didn't really know what happened this spring when he was fired from Two and a Half Men and began a manic round of media appearances talking about his "tiger blood" and "winning."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

I fought with drug dealers: Winehouse's father

Amy Winehouse's father says the fight to get her off drugs often turned physical, as he tussled with the drug dealers and gangsters who were supplying his daughter with them.

"I spent my time fighting with drug dealers, and I mean proper fighting," Mitch Winehouse said in an interview Tuesday. "And I'm a middle-aged man, who is overweight, having fistfights with people."

Winehouse said his daughter finally budged once she saw how hurt her family was: "She witnessed all this stuff going on, of how her family and her friends were fighting gangsters and she decided she didn't want to put her family in that position anymore."

Amy Winehouse, who had struggled with drug and alcohol addiction, was found dead at her London home on July 23. Her father was set to launch The Amy Winehouse Foundation yesterday, which would've been the singer's 28th birthday.

Mitch Winehouse said there were some negative influences in the group that surrounded Amy. He said he was naive about her drug use early on.

"I didn't know the extent of her problem until maybe four months before she decided to quit," he said.

Winehouse — who has been doing interviews and has appeared on TV to talk about the U.S. launch of the foundation — said talking about his daughter is "very hard," but it "is helping us deal with our grief."

MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Mitch Winehouse

He made various appearances with Amy's mother, Janis; his current wife, Jane; and Amy's last boyfriend, Reg Traviss.

"I don't know what her ultimate plans were, but she was certainly talking to me about having children," Winehouse said of his daughter's last relationship. "Even when she was drinking, she was in a great place."

Winehouse believes his daughter died of a seizure related to alcohol detoxification. She had seizures in the past, he said. A full inquest into her death begins next month.

Since her death, Mitch Winehouse said he is beginning to realize his daughter's musical talents.

"I took everything for granted, I didn't appreciate what a great singer she was, and now I do," he said, getting teary-eyed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keira Knightley hates the fact that the release of A Dangerous Method will probably lead to a flurry of Google searches for "Keira Knightley nude" and "Keira Knightley spanked."

Lady of the night

Lady Antebellum's much-anticipated new album Own the Night full of love songs, perspective Talk about learning to handle music pressures

DONN JONES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lady Antebellum has released their latest album Own the Night.

The members of Lady Antebellum get asked a difficult question all the time: When are you going to write another hit like Need You Now? That's a little like asking if they can pick a set of winning lottery numbers — twice. The probability of achieving one worldwide hit is astronomical. But two?

"How could we ever do that?" singer Charles Kelley said. "That was a once-in-a-lifetime song. But I think we'll continue to have success if we stay true to ourselves and our fans, our core audience, which is the country music audience. We're very flattered that more people are into us, but (pop music is) a genre and a world where it's much more, 'in one day and out the next.' As long as our country fans still dig what we're doing, we'll hopefully be here for a long time."

That kind of even-handed approach has guided Lady Antebellum through one of the most difficult periods any band must navigate — instant stardom. Need You Now catapulted the trio from a well-regarded young country act with plenty of promise to multiplatinum international pop stars.

As they release their third album, Own the Night, this week, Kelley, Hillary Scott and Dave Haywood are philosophical about their expectations. No one hides the fact they hope for a follow-up hit and would be disappointed if Night doesn't catch fire with fans. But standing firmly on a foundation they built long before the spotlight found them, they believe they did their part.

"Whether we have that smash, the record is a collection of better, stronger songs, for me," Kelley said. "Only time will tell if the fans feel that way."

Lady A's first single from Night, making was a No. 1 on Billboard's country charts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Whether we have that smash, the record is a collection of better, stronger songs, for me. Only time will tell if the fans feel that way"
CHARLES KELLEY

Instant fame

It took them all over the world and had their heads swimming.

All over the world They toured places like Australia and New Zealand, with fans shouting their lyrics back at them from the last row, and have needed translators for some of their interviews. They earned a room full of trophies, including that most surreal night when they won five Grammys, including record and song of the year for Need You Now. They became the go-to act for national anthems and guest appearances, climbed the country music ladder from opening act to headliner and pushed into the pop music world like few country acts before.

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Wedding bells for Brit?

Boy toy Jason Trawick spotted in jewelry store discussing diamonds

Britney Spears' boyfriend, Jason Trawick, has reportedly been spending a lot of time in jewelry stores lately, suggesting he may finally be ready to propose to the pop star, according to X17.

Trawick spent more than an hour at the Mouawad jewelry store, chatting with owner Pascal Mouawad.

A source speculates that Spears' upcoming 30th birthday will be the big moment, though her rep says everyone needs to just calm down.

"There is no truth to that report with regards to engagement rings," a rep for Spears says.

METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Britney Spears and Jason Trawick

Celebrity tweets

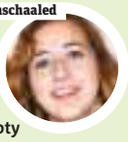
@AlbertBrooks

"Great time in Toronto. Great people. If you can make it here you can make it....well, in most parts of Canada."

@GarryShandling

"If somebody dies on twitter do we just stare at a blank screen for a minute in memory?"

@kristenschaaled



"I diagnosed my loneliness as premature empty nest syndrome.

@joan_rivers

"A 42-year-old woman is being prosecuted for calling her ex 65,000 times in one year. Who knew Jennifer Aniston could dial that fast?"

Will Smith, Marc Anthony buddy up at football game

Will Smith joined Marc Anthony at a Miami Dolphins game recently, sharing smiles and posing for photos, which suggests Smith isn't taking the rumours about Anthony having an affair with Jada Pinkett-Smith very seriously, according to Hollyscoop.

Anthony, who is a part-owner of the Dolphins with soon-to-be ex-wife Jennifer Lopez, was celebrating his birthday at the game.

"They seemed to be getting along very well," a source says of Anthony and Smith.

METRO

▶ Will Smith

DiCaprio isn't all about the money

Leonardo DiCaprio has had plenty of box office success — not that he's keeping score.

"Throughout my career, I never knew which movies of mine made money and which didn't," he tells GQ.

"The [money] stuff never mattered to me until I was into my 30s and got interested in producing.

"But even now I say that unless you want to prove that you can carry a film with your name, continuously trying to achieve box-office success is a dead end."

METRO

▶ Leonardo DiCaprio

Michael Jackson's estate pulls $300M

Though he may have been hundreds of millions of dollars in debt when he died two years ago, Michael Jackson's estate has generated more than $310 million.

Now it's time to distribute some of it, according to the Associated Press.

A payment of $30 million is set to be split up among Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson, and his three children, as well as a number of unnamed charities, according to court documents that were filed this week.

The documents also disclosed that Katherine is looking to sell the family's $4.5 million Encino compound.

METRO

▶ Michael Jackson

Duff puts mansion on the market

Former Disney Channel star Hillary Duff is looking to unload her Toluca Lake home once again, according to AOL Real Estate.

The pregnant singer first listed the 9,000-square-foot Spanish-style home in 2010 for $7 million but was unable to find a buyer.

The home has been re-listed at $6.25 million.

METRO

▶ Amanda Seyfried

Seyfried loves sex scenes

Amanda Seyfried isn't the type of actress to complain about onscreen intimacy.

"Sex scenes are great. A lot of my co-stars have been sexy guys my age, and so, why not? I'm not going to pretend it's not fun," she tells W magazine.

METRO

3 life

Runway report

▶ Lykke Li

What you won't be able to escape next season:

1) The colour pink
2) Peplums
3) Ethnic prints
4) Mesh

What's playing on the catwalks:

Alice + Olivia - Why Even Try, by Theophilus London
Tracy Reese - I'll Follow Rivers, by Lykke Li
Rodarte - Fade Into You, by Mazzy Star
Marc by Marc Jacobs - Man Down, by Rihanna
Rebecca Taylor - Just Be Good to Me, by S.O.S. Band

METRO

Alexa Chung: An English rose, with some thorns

▶ Check out some of the highs and lows from this season's shows as another New York Fashion Week comes to a 'clothes'

New York runway roundup

KENYA HUNT
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

GETTY IMAGES

MARC JACOBS

It's well known that Jacobs has had a lot on his plate lately. What with his rumoured negotiations with the house of Christian Dior and all. Maybe that explains the simpler than usual approach to his spring collection, which featured preppy sportswear classics in navy and Kelly green with lots of neon mixed in. It was all kind of club kid leaves the raves to go to college. The brights were the stars of the show. It wasn't his most earth-shatteringly creative collection for his secondary line, but will probably be a retail hit nonetheless.

GETTY IMAGES

BETSEY JOHNSON

Betsey Johnson took her finale bow to Three Six Mafia's Azz and Tittiez complete with flashing boobs and bottoms on the runway backdrop. How badass is that? The only problem is, she seemed to take those lyrics too literally with the clothes, which were a little bit Malibu Barbie, a little bit Nicki Minaj and a little bit Kinky Boots. It was campy and fun and we all love her for that. But the clothes, such as a corseted, mini dress with a tiny teacup skirt and even tinier bra top, started to veer into costume territory.

GETTY IMAGES

DIANE VON FURSTENBERG

In the sea of prints that New York Fashion Week has become, Diane von Furstenberg's unsurprisingly stood out. They came in soft pastels with pops of yellow and orange (another recurring theme this week) and sometimes layered in a single look. The best moments were the unexpected, tomboyish ones such as a pair of checked shorts in lime and maroon paired with a neon green button down shirt, maroon blazer and graphic loafers or a slouchy purple, printed long-sleeve jumpsuits with two-tone, slip-on flats.

GETTY IMAGES

JASON WU

Sporty and street are not exactly words that come to mind when you think of Michelle Obama's go-to designer and yet he was able to own both ideas by interpreting them in his own polished Wu-ian way. The beauty is that he experimented with the sporty trend, which we're seeing just about everywhere this week, in a way that didn't read too literal (because not everyone wants to look like she just walked out of the gym). For instance, his lightweight parkas gave his bejeweled collared shirts and short-short pairings a subtle urban edge.

GETTY IMAGES

BCBG MAXAZRIA

Bold, saturated brights emerged as an early trend for spring 2012 and Max and Lubov Azria's collection was full of them in the form of sporty, colour-blocked dresses. Each one was long (below the knee to ankle length), easy to wear and fluid — all the better to graze the body in that trademark Azria way when the wind blows. Later in the show, the colour blocking gave way to bright ethnic prints and crafty knits. It all made for a much more urban looking collection than we're used to seeing from the brand.

Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you. Welcome to my weekly space in Metro — a little window onto my multifaceted world.

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5 P.M. (ET) ON CTV. JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.

@Jeanne_Beker:
Karen Elson rocks the magic for @marchesafashion

- **@Jeanne_Beker** Backstage at the Narciso Rodriguez show, talking about what makes clothes sexy. "It's the body within!" he says. What do YOU say???
- @CWICW it's ALL CONFIDENCE!
- @ELLE_A_Holic yeah I totally agree with you. Clothes have to be worn the way they were intended to as well, I find that really helps LOL!

▶ Karen Elson

I STOCK

Finding the right dining table

▶ Long tables are great for family gatherings — sometimes separating our loved ones is a smart way to create a peaceful dinner party.

Versatility is most important when decorating dining rooms

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

A dining table is much more than just a surface that holds your dishes while you eat. And where you place your table will help determine the style and material you choose.

In kitchens, a durable and easy-to-clean surface is crucial, while in a large, formal dining room you'll require a table with an elegant look. If you dine in your living room area then you'll want a table that blends in with the living furniture.

Start with size

Keep in mind that the table must fit comfortably into the space with at least 30 to 36 inches on all sides of the table.

For example, if you had a 10-x-10-foot square space for dining, then the maximum sized table would be about 54 to 60 inches.

Keep in mind that the clearance space around a table isn't always from the walls — if a china cabinet or hutch is in the room then you require the clearance from that item. A 36- to 48-inch round table will seat four people comfortably; a 54- to 60-inch table will seat six to eight people.

If dealing with a long table then allow 24 inches for each person. Dining tables are always a standard height of 30 inches.

Some antique tables are a few inches lower and there has been a trend lately to buy dining tables that are bistro height (42-inches tall).

The bistro height tables are better in more casual dining environments like kitchens, lofts and open-concept spaces with high ceilings.

Decide on shape

A good design form follows function so follow the shape of the space allotted to dining. Is it a long, slim area between kitchen and living area or a squared off space in an L-shaped living/dining room?

If you have a long room or space for dining then choose a rectangular or long oval-shaped table. If you have a square space then usually a round table works best.

Square or round tables are great for creating intimate dining settings as everyone is equal distance from one another.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A low, retro-inspired credenza stores everything from dishes to office files. Saga Credenza, $650, West Elm

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A 54-inch pedestal wood table work for most dining spaces. Pearse Table, $1,900; Sasha Chairs, $420, both Crate and Barrel.

Choose a style

Whether you like modern or traditional decor, the recommended style of table is pedestal — the centre legs allow more flexible seating as you won't have to contend with corner legs at the table.

Glass topped tables offer an open, airier look to a dining space — perfect for small spaces.

Fine finished wood tables seem to be the most popular as a long-term investment, but now there's a trend for casual, rough-hewn wood and metal looks for an industrial and vintage feeling. This works great in loft-like spaces and the new farmhouse-style kitchen.

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Roadshow is in London: 2 Days ONLY!

TERRY UNKLER
Canadian Collectors Roadshow Staff Writer

After very successful shows in Newmarket and Peterborough, the roadshow is now coming to London. So you had better search through your attics and garages, go through your lock boxes and jewellery, because you may be sitting on a small fortune and not even know it! Roadshow experts are here to examine all your antiques, collectibles, gold and silver.

Local Roadshow Expert Examines Some Gold Jewellery

During a show near Toronto, a woman came in with a jewellery box that she had just inherited from her late aunt. "I don't wear jewellery," explained Barbara Eagles, "so it was an easy decision to come down to the Roadshow to sell it". She was very excited when she was able to walk away with a cheque for over $2,100 for jewellery she was never going to wear anyway.

Expert Elijah Gold explains, "We have noticed a substantial increase in the amount of precious metals such as gold and silver coming to the Roadshow, which makes sense considering how high it's currently trading at. He added, "The Roadshow is great because it puts money in people's pockets, especially during such hard times. Lots of items that are just sitting around collecting dust in basements and jewellery boxes can be exchanged for money, on the spot!"

At another Roadshow event, a woman, named Mira Kovalchek, walked in with a tin full of hundreds of old coins that were given to her as a young child by her grandfather. She finally decided to come in to the Roadshow and see what he had given her. She was ecstatic to learn she had coins dating back to the late 1800s, some of which were extremely rare. Roadshow consultant Perry Bruce explains "We had uncovered an 1871 Queen Victoria 50 Cent piece, valued at over $2,000!!! She had a nice assortment of coins that were not rare dates, but she was able to sell them for their silver content". She explains, "I never would have thought that my old tin of coins was worth so much! I can finally afford to renovate my kitchen". Perry Bruce continued, "Canadian coins prior to 1967, and American coins prior to 1964 are all made with silver, and we have noticed a large increase of customers coming to the Roadshow with coins and cashing them in for their silver value".

Experts at the Roadshow will evaluate and examine your items, FREE OF CHARGE, as well as educate you on them. The Roadshow sees hundreds of people during a one week event, and they have been travelling across Canada to different cities and towns, searching for your forgotten treasures.

Trains, dolls, toys, old advertising signs, pocket watches, porcelain and bisque dolls, pretty much everything can be sold at the Roadshow. Any early edition Barbie's are sought after by the Roadshow collectors, as well as a variety of Dinky Toys and Matchbox cars. Lionel Trains and a variety of tin toys can also fetch a price, especially if they are in their original box or in mint condition. If a collector is looking for one of your collectibles, they can always make an offer to buy it.

A man brought in a 1950's Marx TinToy Robot, in fairly good condition, still in its original box. They were able to locate a collector for that specific toy within minutes, and that gentleman went home with over $700 for his Toy Robot and a few other small toys.

So whether you have an old toy car, a broken gold chain, or a Barbie sitting in the closet, bring it down to the Roadshow, they will take a look at it for FREE and it could put money in your pocket!

See you at the roadshow!

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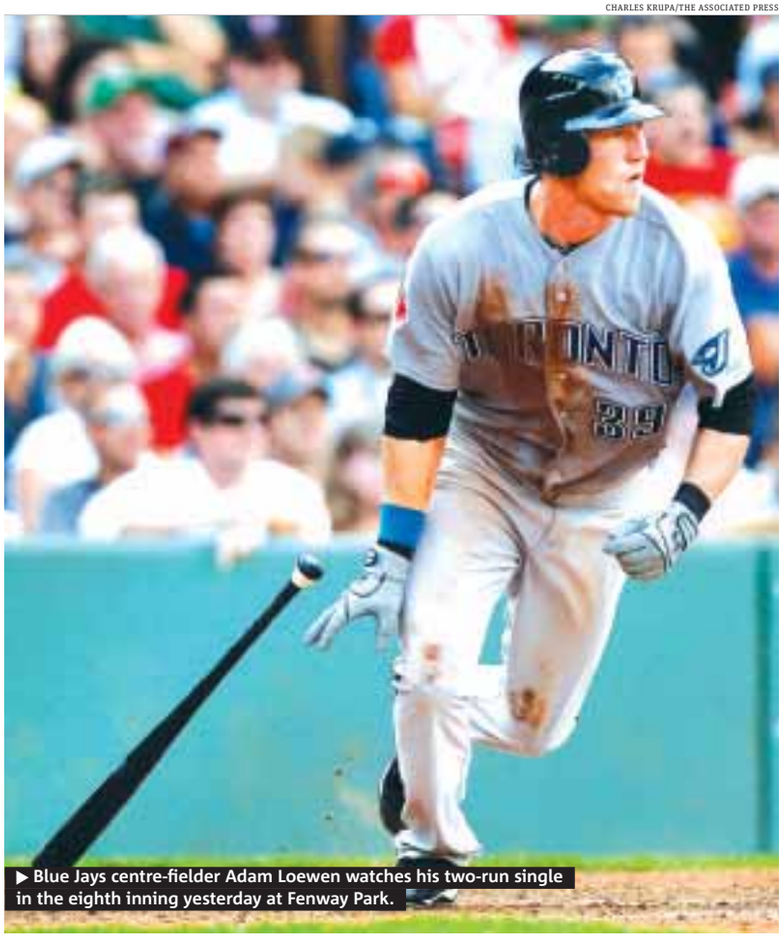
Breaking through in Boston

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Blue Jays centre-fielder Adam Loewen watches his two-run single in the eighth inning yesterday at Fenway Park.

B.C. batter helps Jays to third win in nine tries at Fenway this season

5	4	
BLUE JAYS	RED SOX	

Canadian Adam Loewen did something as a hitter yesterday he never did as a pitcher — beat the Boston Red Sox.

"I'm very aware of that. They got me," he said after his two-run, eighth-inning single against Daniel Bard lifted the Blue Jays to a 5-4 victory.

The native of Surrey, B.C., came to the majors as a pitcher and started four games against the Red Sox for Baltimore, going 0-1 with a 6.63 earned-run average in 2006 and '07.

"I think the best chance I had was against (Josh) Beckett in our place," Loewen said. "I came out of the game (ahead) 2-1 in the sixth and they ended up winning it in the top of the ninth."

Loewen last pitched in 2008, when he retired from the position after two stress fractures in his elbow. He then worked his way up through the Jays system as a fielder, this year hitting .306 with 17 homers and 85 RBIs for triple-A Las Vegas.

"It's been crazy," he said. "I didn't think I'd be playing this much but I come ready to play every day, whether I'm in the lineup or not."

Loewen is 5 for 14 as a major leaguer. His hit yesterday made a winner out of Ricky Romero (15-10).

"Amazing. It's crazy," said Romero, who went eight innings in the win. "Just to make that transition ... you never really see that and he's done a tremendous job for us."

At 3-10 in September, the Red Sox began the day with a four-game lead over Tampa Bay in the wild-card race. Boston led the AL East to start the month and were nine games up on the Rays.

After getting swept in a three-game series at Tampa Bay last weekend, the Red Sox host the Rays in a four-game series starting tonight.

Boston led 4-2 in the eighth before Toronto came back against Bard (2-8), who entered and walked Edwin Encarnacion and Kelly Johnson.

Mark Teahen bunted, and Bard's throw to first pulled Lars Anderson off the bag for a throwing error that loaded the bases.

J.P. Arencibia's RBI ground out cut the lead to 4-3, with third baseman Kevin Youkilis bobbling the ball and throwing to first. Loewen followed with a single to centre to cap the rally. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aches and pains

▶ Brett Lawrie

The series in Boston took its toll on both the Blue Jays and Red Sox healthwise.

- Jays third baseman Brett Lawrie left yesterday's game with a bruised knee.
- Boston first baseman Adrian Gonzalez departed with left-calf tightness after his sixth-inning homer. He said it tightened up in his previous at-bat and bothered him on his home-run trot, but hopes to play tonight.
- Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz missed his second-straight game with muscle spasms in his back.

Wait is almost over as NHLers prepare for camp

Almost three months to the day after the Boston Bruins hoisted the Stanley Cup at Rogers Arena in Vancouver, NHL players are heading back to work.

For virtually everyone who wasn't part of the Bruins or Canucks when Game 7 was played June 15, it's been a long wait.

The majority of players had five months off to rehab injuries and start working toward a new season. In some cases, it was a welcome break.

"The long off-season is good for everybody to get that rest and get the time away from the game we need," Chicago Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews said recently. "I think we're all excited and eager to get going."

Teams around the NHL will put players through medical testing tomorrow before taking to the ice for the start of training camp on Saturday.

While Toews was obviously disappointed the Blackhawks failed to get past Vancouver in the first round, it offered him a chance to spend more time in the gym than usual. Chicago was coming off two quick summers after winning the Stanley Cup in 2010 and advancing to the Western Conference final in 2009.

As a result, Toews is a prime candidate for a breakthrough season. He expects to improve on the career-best 76 points he had a year ago.

"I'm definitely setting my sights on bigger things personally, not only teamwise," said Toews. "At any level I've ever played, I always wanted to be the best. I think that's what it's all about — in the end, you want to have as much of an influence and affect on your team as you can.

"I think the sky's the limit."

It's the kind of positive thinking that can be found in abundance before meaningful games have been played.

Toews comes by it honestly having spent some of the summer in his hometown of Winnipeg, where there is still a buzz about the return of the Jets after 15 years. The anticipation will only grow with players officially reporting tomorrow to begin work toward the regular-season opener against Montreal on Oct. 9.

The regular season starts Oct. 6. THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"I believe in my skills. I believe in my talent. This fight will not go the distance."

FLOYD MAYWEATHER YESTERDAY. THE BOXING STAR WILL PUT HIS 41-0 RECORD ON THE LINE AGAINST VICTOR ORTIZ IN LAS VEGAS ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

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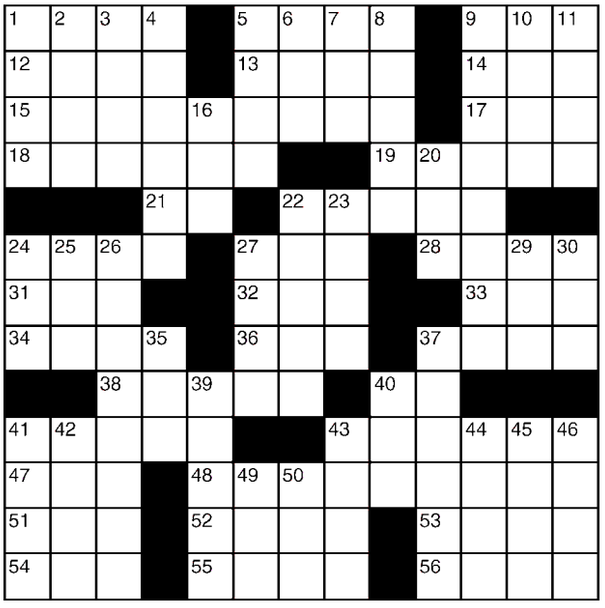

Across

1 Weapons
5 Lovers' quarrel
9 Captain Kirk, to pals
12 Clay-rich soil
13 Unrestrained revelry
14 Actress Thurman
15 Prank victim, perhaps
17 Zero
18 Two trios
19 Occurrence
21 Mercury symbol
22 Chocolate substitute
24 Smelling a bit off
27 Rowing need
28 Hide in the bushes
31 McKinley's 1st lady
32 Old televangelism initials
33 Space
34 "Simon —"
36 Author Umberto
37 Venomous vipers
38 Bungle
40 Ess preceder
41 Not just plump
43 In the wrong direction
47 Supporting
48 Mad Tea Party attendee
51 Remote
52 Prune, pre-withering
53 Elec. co., e.g.
54 Pigpen
55 Referee's call
56 Authentic

Down

1 "Oh, woe"
2 Lasso
3 "You Bet Your Life" host
4 Workplace "under the spreading chestnut tree"
5 Cushy
6 Expert
7 Past
8 Tenth President
9 Some large beetles
10 "Here's my ante"
11 Brewery supply
16 Journey segment
20 Loudness (Abbr.)
22 Snag
23 Singer Guthrie
24 USO audience, often
25 Oklahoma city
26 Sheriff Andy Taylor's bailiwick
27 Oil cartel
29 Knock
30 Some duties for 24-Down
35 "Help!"
37 Camelot ruler
39 Dangle a carrot
40 Blonde shade
41 Kills, "Sopranos"-style
42 Gravy vessel
43 Pinnacle
44 Assessment
45 La Scala showstopper
46 Holler
49 Will Smith biopic
50 Pirates' potation

▶ Yesterday's answer

R	U	D	E		D	I	P		I	M	P	S
O	N	I	N		R	C	A		N	A	L	A
D	I	S	T	R	E	S	S		S	T	E	N
E	X	C	E	E	D		H	E	P	T	A	D
			R	A	G		A	M	I	R		
P	A	W		M	E	L		S	T	E	A	L
A	S	A	P		D	O	C		E	S	P	Y
C	H	I	L	E		L	A	W		S	E	E
		T	E	N	D		B	O	B			
A	B	R	A	D	E		A	N	E	M	I	A
H	O	E	S		F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S
E	L	S	E		O	R	E		R	A	N	T
M	O	S	S		G	O	T		A	L	T	O

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	3			6		4		9
			4		1		6	8
	9	2			5		4	
			8		6			
	6		2			9	7	
9	4		1		7			
8		7		3			5	1

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	2	5	8	3	6	4	7	1
4	8	1	5	7	9	2	6	3
3	6	7	2	4	1	8	9	5
6	4	3	7	8	5	1	2	9
2	7	8	1	9	3	5	4	6
1	5	9	6	2	4	7	3	8
5	9	2	4	6	8	3	1	7
7	1	6	3	5	2	9	8	4
8	3	4	9	1	7	6	5	2

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Me, Happy Birthday to ME, made it 3 monts, how strange my 3 month is tomorrow!! All the best **F**

Kissing Monster, Happy Birthday, my love!!! Wishing you much happiness! Love you! **HAPPY ELEPHANTA**

Pitter, Think about you everyday... but we stay away. I miss my best friend! **PATTER**

Love Bug
You are the best thing to ever happen to me and I wanna say thank you for sticking by me no matter what. I know sometimes we have our tough times and we get frustrated with each other, but that's life baby and that's love. At the end of the day we love each other no matter what and that's all that matters. I love you tons. Stay with me forever? xoxoxoxoxo **HONEY BEE**

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 There is no point criticizing someone because he or she has failed to live up to your expectations.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You'll be feeling somewhat fragile today, so be kind to yourself. Rest up.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 This is no time for doubts. Throw caution to the wind and let your instincts guide you.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Make sure you are not being misled by those who have an axe to grind or an agenda to fulfill.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Get out into the world and meet as many new people as you can.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You'll be able to convince those whose financial help you may need that your cause is deserving.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Venus, your ruling planet, moves into your sign today, which is an incredibly good omen for both relationships and money matters.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You will learn about yourself over the next 24 hours. It'll come in handy.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Friends will bring you luck today, and make life more enjoyable.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You must look for ways to enhance your status and give your reputation a boost. Believe in yourself.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Don't waste time telling others what it is you are going to do – just do it. More action, less talk.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. If you compromise your principles once, you will be expected to do so again. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

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